[5th March 1954

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" Sir, after these conductors and drivers pass these first aid tests, will there be an increase in their salaries because of their acquiring this prescribed qualification? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" It is one of the suggestions that conductors should know first aid in the service of humanity. Knowledge desired or acquired in the service of humanity need not necessarily mean that we should pay more for it."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" What is the accident traced to, and to what extent are the Government, as proprietors of the bus, responsible? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, on 28th December 1953, Sri Santharaj Isiah, a conductor in the Government Bus Service, who was travelling on the footboard of the Government Bus No. MSP 7942 plying between Thyagarayanagar and Ice House, fell down from the moving bus near Pithapuram Bus-stop on Eldam's Road and sustained minor injuries. According to the conductor's own statement, he fainted in the bus and slipped. The driver of that bus took the conductor to a nearby house where he was given first aid and subsequently he was given medical treatment at the Government Royapetta Hospital as an out-patient. The conductor has now completely recovered and is now on duty."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, while answering a supplementary question put by me, the Hon. Minister said in plain, clear, Her Majesty the Queen's English, that the first aid boxes that were inside the Government transport buses did not contain any medicine and they were empty. Later, he modified the statement saying that he was not sure. I may point out to him that no buses contain first aid equipment. An examination of any Government bus at this moment will reveal this. I should not be misunderstood that I am levelling a charge against the Government. It is the responsibility of the Government to bear with my allegation."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, as I have said, if the Government buses do not contain any first aid equipment, it is because legally there is nothing wrong in it. At the present moment, Government buses are exempted from the operation of the rule which says that buses must carry first aid boxes. But, as I said, from the humanitarian point of view, I shall have the matter examined."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Sir, in answer to a supplementary question, the Hon. Minister was pleased to state that there was no legal obligation on the part of the Government to provide their buses with first aid boxes, whereas there was the obligation on private operators to have first aid boxes in their buses. May I know on what basis this distinction is made? "

5th March 1954]

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, the hon. Member is a lawyer, and he must know better than I know. Under section 42 (3) of the Motor Vehicles Act, a permit is not necessary for running the Government transport. Where a permit is not necessary for running the bus, the obligations of carrying the first aid boxes need not be fulfilled. Therefore, the Government buses do not carry first aid boxes."

Special guarantee for the installation of pump-sets under the Pykara Electricity System.

* 62 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the number of years that have been fixed as special guarantee for installation of pump-sets for agricultural purposes under the Pykara Electricity System, Coimbatore district?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" In all the Systems in the Electricity Department, agreements providing for special guarantees are obtained from agricultural and industrial consumers for a period of ten years."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Questions over."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1954-55—*cont.*

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Sri K. Vinayakam will now speak."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, I rise to offer my impressions about the annual financial statement that has been placed before the House by the Hon. the Minister for Finance. After perusing the entire budget, I feel that this is a slightly progressive budget when compared to the budget that was presented last year. The Government are moving in the right direction. But the step taken by them is niggardly. Sir, the Opposition has been bringing to the notice of the Government what types of taxation there should be. The suggestions given by the Opposition were considered wisely by the Government, and they have followed the advice given by the Opposition in framing this budget. After perusing the budget and after having some experience of the budgeting done by the Government, I have come to the conclusion that there is something fundamentally and radically wrong in the entire taxation structure of our country. I am drawing the attention of the House to the fact that the Union List contains fabulous sources of taxation with the result the Union Government are taking away a large slice of the income from our State leaving only meagre sources to us, which have become dried up. The result is that the State of Madras is not in a position to balance its budget with the existing sources of taxation. Ultimately, our

11 a.m. State is compelled to go with a begging bowl to the Centre for more grants and aid. That is the pitiable position in which the respective units of the country are placed with the result, there is local agitation in the various States for self-realization. The Centre has taken away plenty of sources of taxation from the States and is sitting at the top of the administration by doling out some grants and loans to the States with the result that people are agitating for cutting away from the Union. This state of affairs must not continue. The States and especially our State must bring it to the notice of the Government of India that they must reserve more sources of taxation to the States. That amounts to amendment of the Constitution and the respective States must take into consideration the aspect of the matter which I am now dilating upon. The canon that the rich must be taxed more and the poor must be fed out of the finance realized by this kind of taxation has been well-observed in this Budget.

"Sir, a general impression has been gaining ground in the State that our Government cater only to the needs of the metropolitan cities like Madras or district headquarters or taluk headquarters with the result that any aid or facility that is offered by the State Government does not reach the actual villager who tills the land. I suggest a new proposal for the consideration of the Government at least for the coming year. There is an impression in almost all the villages that the Government are not doing much good to the villagers. I suggest that the Government should set apart some money entirely for the villages under a separate head like Village Reconstruction Schemes. It, however, does not matter by what name it is called. Now, for instance, the population in our State is about three crores. We may set apart Rs. 3 crores for the benefit of the people in the villages. Under such a scheme, even places like Madras City and district headquarters may be omitted. I shall now suggest how the money should be distributed among the various villages. For instance, we may take a village which consists of a thousand people. The Government may tell the people of that village that they will have a thousand rupees for carrying out an improvement which should be suggested by themselves. The Government should not ask their Tahsildar or their Revenue officials to suggest to them that they will have a road, well or school. They should invite suggestions from the villagers telling them that so much money has been allotted to their village. The villagers must also contribute an amount equal to that which is given by the Government. If the contribution could not come in the form of finance, it must come at least in the form of human labour. This sort of arrangement will make the villagers have great confidence in the Government. The impression at the present time is that the Government are not doing anything for the benefit of the villagers. The Government may say that the villagers will have the benefit of the Community Projects, Local Development Schemes and National Extension Schemes. But the benefit of these schemes does not reach the villager immediately. Ultimately, after a few

5th March 1954] [Sri K. Vinayakam]

years, it might reach him. But what I say is that people in all the villages should get the benefit. It is no use selecting a few villages and improving the conditions there. Of course, the Government will plead lack of finance. I know they cannot extend the benefit of the National Extension Schemes to all the villages. But my suggestion is simple. The Government may set apart Rs. 3 crores or even Rs. 6 crores in their Budget for the improvement of the villages and may ask the villagers to give their own suggestions. Suppose there is a village which has no road at all. The people of that village will ask for a good road. In such a case, the Government may ask their revenue officials or Public Works officials to carry out the work. In a village where there is a road but there is no well, a well may be constructed. In a village where there is a road and a well, a school can be opened. That kind of thing will raise the prestige of the Government. At the present moment, the villagers have lost hopes even in the Members of the Opposition. I had an occasion to meet them in a gathering last evening. I addressed a public meeting in a village. The villagers say, 'Next time we are not going to send any Member to the Legislature, whether he is a Congressman or a non-Congressman'. They have lost all hopes in the Government as well as in the Opposition because they think that nothing has been done either by the Government or by us. So, I have suggested a method by which the aid given by the Government can reach the villagers. I leave it for the consideration of the Government.

"Then, Sir, my impression about our Government is that our administration is top-heavy. We have plenty of staff so much so that a work which can be done efficiently by one clerk is now being done by four or five clerks. Our Chief Minister might know that there was a system known as 'Rice Disposal System.' Rice was an official who invented an efficient method of filing letters and redressing the grievances of the public. That was a system by which all the correspondence relating to a particular subject was kept in one file. Now, if one asks an official in the Secretariat by bringing a certain reference, what happens? He is not able to trace the particular correspondence and bring it immediately. The correspondence is spread over in different offices and in different files. One Mr. Tottenham invented the existing system which has become rotten now. This is the system that has placed the Government in such an awkward position. The result is that even a Minister cannot get immediately a relevant paper on any subject in the Secretariat. The system has only duplicated the work. Nothing tangible is done for the benefit of the people.

"I was saying that the Government had paid heed to the words of the Opposition. One such thing is this. The Government are exempting meat, fish, eggs, etc., from sales tax. In this connection, I may request them to consider the question of exempting flowers also from sales tax. Flower is a commodity which